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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 2 Jan. 1952

SUBJECT Workers' Demonstrations and Strikes

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1. Open demonstrations of discontent were staged early in December 1951 mainly in Moravia as a result of the abolition of Christmas bonuses and a new cut in rations to begin in January 1952. Strike attempts in some factories were successful. In Prague all streetcar and bus traffic was to be stopped and all factories were to join in protest manifestations. However, the plan was revealed at the last minute by a transportation official and the employees were forced to work.
2. A similar strike attempt in Brno was a complete success. In retaliation the city was cut off from the surrounding area and all traffic was stopped until the situation calmed down. All available police reserves in Moravia were concentrated in Brno and Moravian SNB garrisons were stationed in Brno as reinforcements. The Army was not used to establish order, but all leaves were cancelled and units were restricted to their camps.
3. During the strike all large factories ceased work and demonstrating workers demolished such free market shops as Daxex, Pramen, Bratrstvi and Textilia. Tanks were stationed in front of the Zbrojovka factory to prevent the approach of police.* No one without identity cards issued in Brno was permitted to enter the city with the exception of persons on duty carrying special passes. In Olomouc there were protest demonstrations, but no strikes.
4. Stormy meetings of Communist Party organizations and Czech labor unions (ROH) took place in all factories. At the Ceskomoravska Kolben Danek-Sokolovo plant in Prague Beran of the Prague Regional National Committee of the Communist Party was silenced and could not finish his speech. Conditions in the workers' militia were chaotic; many members refused to carry out orders and joined the protesting workers. A complete reorganization of all Party and trade union committees was ordered as well as of workers' committees and the workers' militia in the plant.

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*

Comment:

protesting workers manned these tanks.

It is believed that

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